

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Twice Amended) A suspension component connection assembly, comprising:

a sleeveless bushing having an elastomeric portion and an inner metal component, the elastomeric portion having with first and second opposing axial ends and an inner metal component receiving bore extending axially through it, the bore having a generally uniform diameter throughout its length, said elastomeric portion further having a ribbed portion positioned intermediate said first and second axial ends of said elastomeric portion, said inner metal component having at least a portion thereof received within said bore of said elastomeric portion, said at least a portion of said inner metal component having a generally uniform diameter corresponding to said generally uniform diameter of said bore of said elastomeric portion; and

a suspension component having a bushing receiving bore separate and distinct from said bushing with first and second opposing axial ends, said bushing receiving bore including a groove portion positioned intermediate said first and second axial ends of said suspension component, said ribbed portion of said bushing being adapted to fit within said groove portion of said suspension component.

2. (original) The suspension component connection assembly of claim 1 wherein said suspension component comprises a leaf spring and said bushing receiving bore comprises a leaf spring eye.

3. (original) The suspension component connection assembly of claim 1 wherein said suspension component comprises a shackle assembly.

4. (original) The suspension component connection assembly of claim 1 wherein said sleeveless bushing further comprises a metal sleeve surrounded by said elastomeric portion.

5. (original) The suspension component connection assembly of claim 1 wherein said sleeveless bushing further comprises a pin surrounded by said elastomeric portion.

6. (original) The suspension component connection assembly of claim 1 wherein said bushing receiving bore has an inner diameter with a circumferential length and said groove portion of said suspension component extends substantially along the circumferential length of said inner diameter in its entirety.

7. (original) The suspension component connection assembly of claim 1 wherein said bushing receiving bore has an inner diameter with a circumferential length and said groove portion of said suspension component extends along only a portion of said circumferential length of said inner diameter.

8. (withdrawn) A suspension component connection assembly, comprising:

a suspension component having a bushing receiving bore with first and second opposing axial ends, said bushing receiving bore including a ribbed portion positioned intermediate said first and second axial ends of said suspension component; and

a sleeveless bushing having an elastomeric portion with

first and second opposing axial ends, said elastomeric portion having a grooved portion positioned intermediate said first and second axial ends of said elastomeric portion, said ribbed portion being adapted to fit within said groove portion of said bushing.

9. (withdrawn) The suspension component connection assembly of claim 8 wherein said suspension component comprises a leaf spring and said bushing receiving bore comprises a leaf spring eye.

10. (withdrawn) The suspension component connection assembly of claim 8 wherein said suspension component comprises a shackle assembly.

11. (withdrawn) The suspension component connection assembly of claim 8 wherein said sleeveless bushing further comprises a metal sleeve surrounded by said elastomeric portion.

12. (withdrawn) The suspension component connection assembly of claim 8 wherein said sleeveless bushing further comprises a pin surrounded by said elastomeric portion.

13. (withdrawn) The suspension component connection assembly of claim 8 wherein said bushing receiving bore has an inner diameter with a circumferential length and said ribbed portion of said suspension component extends substantially along the circumferential length of said inner diameter in its entirety.

14. (withdrawn) A suspension component connection assembly, comprising:

a suspension component having a bushing receiving bore with

first and second opposing axial ends, said bushing receiving bore including a slot portion positioned intermediate said first and second axial ends of said suspension component; and

a sleeveless bushing having an elastomeric portion with first and second opposing axial ends, said elastomeric portion having a protrusion positioned intermediate said first and second axial ends of said elastomeric portion, said protrusion being adapted to fit within said slot of said suspension component.

15. (withdrawn) The suspension component connection assembly of claim 14 wherein said suspension component comprises a leaf spring and said bushing receiving bore comprises a leaf spring eye.

16. (withdrawn) The suspension component connection assembly of claim 14 wherein said sleeveless bushing further comprises a metal sleeve surrounded by said elastomeric portion.

17. (withdrawn) The suspension component connection assembly of claim 14 wherein said sleeveless bushing further comprises a pin surrounded by said elastomeric portion.

18. (withdrawn) A suspension component connection assembly, comprising:

a suspension component having a bushing receiving bore with first and second opposing axial ends, said bushing receiving bore including a hole positioned intermediate said first and second axial ends of said suspension component; and

a sleeveless bushing having an elastomeric portion with first and second opposing axial ends, said elastomeric portion having a protrusion positioned intermediate said first and

second axial ends of said elastomeric portion, said protrusion being adapted to fit within said hole of said suspension component.

19. (withdrawn) The suspension component connection assembly of claim 18 wherein said suspension component comprises a leaf spring and said bushing receiving bore comprises a leaf spring eye.

20. (withdrawn) The suspension component connection assembly of claim 18 wherein said sleeveless bushing further comprises a metal sleeve surrounded by said elastomeric portion.

21. (withdrawn) The suspension component connection assembly of claim 18 wherein said sleeveless bushing further comprises a pin surrounded by said elastomeric portion.

22. (new) A suspension component connection assembly, comprising:

a sleeveless bushing having an elastomeric portion with first and second opposing axial ends, said elastomeric portion having a ribbed portion positioned intermediate said first and second axial ends of said elastomeric portion, said sleeveless bushing further comprising a pin surrounded by said elastomeric portion; and

a suspension component having a bushing receiving bore separate and distinct from said bushing with first and second opposing axial ends, said bushing receiving bore including a groove portion positioned intermediate said first and second axial ends of said suspension component, said ribbed portion of said bushing being adapted to fit within said groove portion of said suspension component.

23. (new) The suspension component connection assembly of claim 22 wherein said suspension component comprises a leaf spring and said bushing receiving bore comprises a leaf spring eye.

24. (new) The suspension component connection assembly of claim 22 wherein said suspension component comprises a shackle assembly.

25. (new) The suspension component connection assembly of claim 22 wherein said bushing receiving bore has an inner diameter with a circumferential length and said groove portion of said suspension component extends substantially along the circumferential length of said inner diameter in its entirety.

26. (new) The suspension component connection assembly of claim 22 wherein said bushing receiving bore has an inner diameter with a circumferential length and said groove portion of said suspension component extends along only a portion of said circumferential length of said inner diameter.

27. (new) A suspension component connection assembly, comprising:

a sleeveless bushing having an elastomeric portion with first and second opposing axial ends, said elastomeric portion having a ribbed portion positioned intermediate said first and second axial ends of said elastomeric portion; and

a suspension component having a bushing receiving bore separate and distinct from said bushing with first and second opposing axial ends, said bushing receiving bore including a groove portion positioned intermediate said first and second

axial ends of said suspension component, said ribbed portion of said bushing being adapted to fit within said groove portion of said suspension component, said bushing receiving bore having an inner diameter with a circumferential length and said groove portion of said suspension component extending along only a portion of said circumferential length of said inner diameter.

28. (new) The suspension component connection assembly of claim 27 wherein said suspension component comprises a leaf spring and said bushing receiving bore comprises a leaf spring eye.

29. (new) The suspension component connection assembly of claim 27 wherein said suspension component comprises a shackle assembly.

30. (new) The suspension component connection assembly of claim 27 wherein said sleeveless bushing further comprises a metal sleeve surrounded by said elastomeric portion.

31. (new) The suspension component connection assembly of claim 27 wherein said sleeveless bushing further comprises a pin surrounded by said elastomeric portion.